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Aoi Seri

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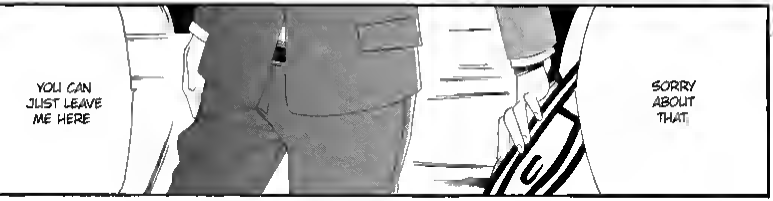
A sentimental journey. Retrospection in 24 pages.

よみがえる岐路

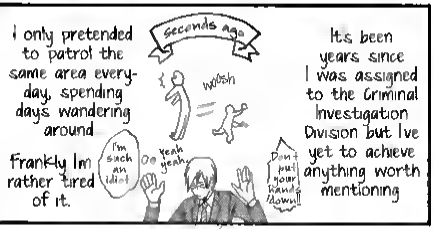
The Crossroad of Memories

Aoi Seri

SHOULD I DRIVE A LITTLE FURTHER?
HMM... THIS ROAD HAS BECOME SO ROUGH SINCE THEY CLOSED THE RAILWAY LINE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
Jolt



It happened two years ago at the end of summer.


I only pretended to patrol the same area everyday, spending days wandering around
Frankly Im rather tired of it.
seconds ago
Wish
I'm such an idiot
Yeah yeah
Don't pull your hand down!!
Its been years since I was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division but Ive yet to achieve anything worth mentioning

IT'S FINE LIKE THIS.

H—
HEY!!
Here.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT'S NOT A TOY!!
THANKS, I'M GOING NOW
WAIT!!
YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE FUN OF YOUR ELDERS—
Sir,

MISTER...
ARE YOU A REAL DETECTIVE?

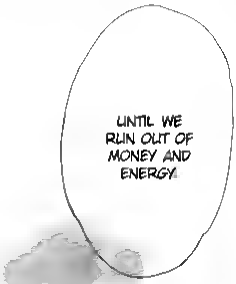
ARE THERE REAL AND FAKE DETEC-TIVES?!
HUH?!
I SEE—
THEN, PERFECT
WHAT—
?!
NOT SO LOUD.

I DON'T WANT MONEY OR ANY-THING
I JUST HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK
I DON'T MIND IF IT'S JUST TO FOOL AROUND
COME WITH ME

Even if I didn't have the Police ID or the gun...
...I GET IT.
STOP POINTING THE GUN AT ME.
I GET IT SO...

IF YOU DO THAT, I WON'T HARM ANYONE.
I PROMISE.

...It would've been
easy to arrest him
Somehow, though, I couldn't.
It seemed like he was
asking for help from
the bottom of
his heart.



Thus, our journey began

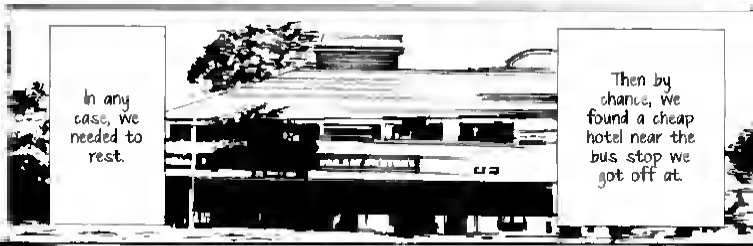
changed train.
walked.
While worrying about running out of money without a destination in mind
we boarded trains.
When we couldn't find a hotel, we slept outside

We wandered around as if in a daydream. However, reality set in as money ran out.
Eventually we stopped caring where we were, or what it was called

HEY, MISTER.
S-
h-h.
LET'S USE WHAT WE HAVE LEFT. SHOULDN'T WE SLEEP IN A PROPER BED ONCE IN A WHILE?
LET'S... GO TO A HOTEL!
WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?
MAYBE..
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING INDECENT?
BRATS LIKE YOU SHOULD LEARN TO RESPECT YOUR ELDERS!
(I just want to take a bath!)
Ha ha ha!
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE'S RISING, Y'KNOW

WE'RE NEAR THE SEA AGAIN I GUESS.
OH YOU'RE RIGHT.
SAY,
DOESN'T THE AIR SMELL LIKE THE OCEAN?
BUT WE'RE SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS HOW COULD WE SMELL THE SEA?
IT'S POSSIBLE BUT I DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE A SEA HERE.

We were exhausted physically and emotionally



I thought he was already at his limit.
Looking at him gradually losing weight,
It was hard to think that it was due to being tired after a long journey.
He would throw up everything he ate.
It's ok if you don't finish everything.
Can't you eat something light?
However, he changed drastically.

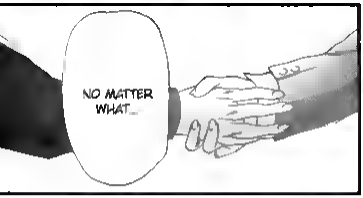
AND NOW THE EVENING NEWS
News, huh
Come to think of it, I haven't been watching news at all lately
THERE IS A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE MURDER CASE OF AN ELDERLY COUPLE
THAT WAS DISCOVERED 13 DAYS AGO
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE INVESTIGATION THE COUPLE LIVED WITH THEIR GRANDCHILD
THE BOY'S WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN
THE POLICE HAVE GIVEN US INFORMATION FOR WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE
THE INVESTIGATION'S PROGRESS
CHARACTERISTICS
Age 16
Height 170 cm
Slim
Black parka
Grey pants
AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE BOY POSSESSES INFORMATION
THAT COULD HELP THE INVESTIGATION PROGRESS.

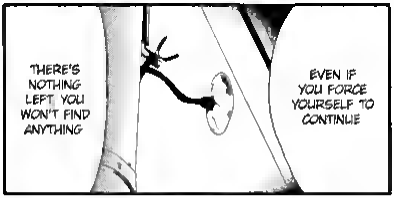
More than anything.

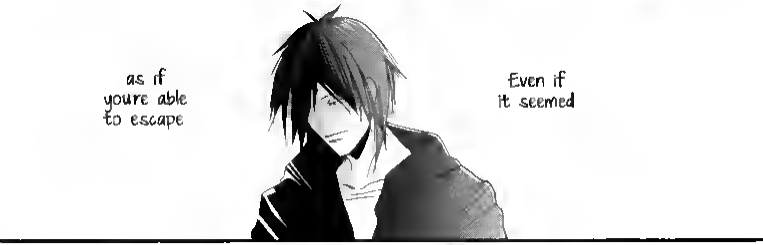
and neither was I disappointed, sad or angry

I didn't think it was strange or scary,

I was convinced







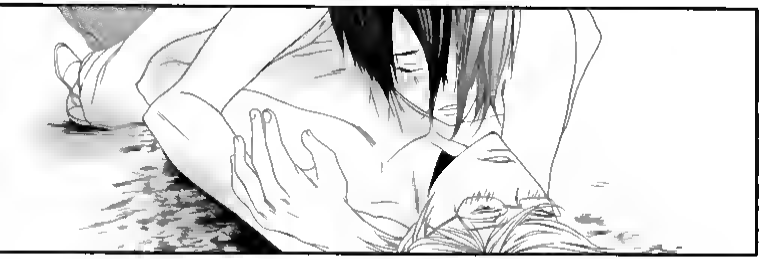
I'm begging you.

MY GRANDPA AND GRANDMA HAVE BEEN TAKING CARE OF ME UNTIL NOW
YOU KNOW, BOTH MY MUM AND DAD DIED YOUNG
WHEN PEOPLE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME TOGETHER, THEY CHANGE
BUT AFTER ALL,
AT FIRST
THEY BOTH TREATED ME REALLY WELL...
HOW INCON-SIDERATE!
CAN'T EVEN EARN A SINGLE PENNY
GOOD FOR NOTHING!
THIS "MONEY EATER"
BY THE TIME I CAME TO
MY STOMACH HURT, AND I HAD A POUND-ING HEADACHE
IF THEY COULDN'T, I WANTED THEM TO LEAVE ME ALONE
I'D RATHER THEY KILLED ME!
THEY WERE LYING ON THE GROUND, COVERED IN BLOOD—

IT'S OKAY.
YOU CAN CHANGE.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HARD...
I WILL.
STAY WITH YOU.
SO LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER AND FIX EVERY-THING.

MISTER

I ACTUALLY KNEW ABOUT YOU FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
YOU'D CONSTANTLY WALK BACK AND FORTH
AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE SAME PLACE, LOOKING APATHETIC
SOMEHOW YOU SEEMED LONELY...

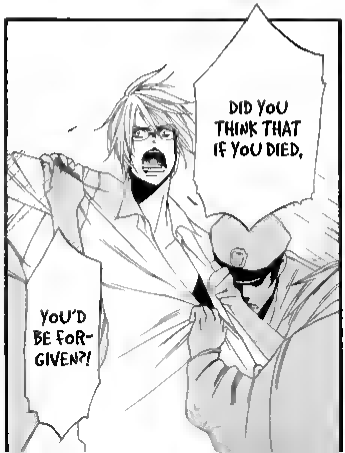


I THOUGHT THAT IF IT'S THIS PERSON, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING UP UNTIL NOW AND SORRY.

YOU'RE A DE-DETECTIVE RIGHT...?
Y-YOU...
BANG
BANG

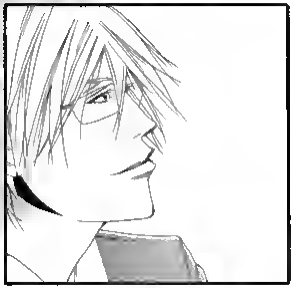
—KID?


DID YOU THINK THAT IF YOU DIED,
YOU'D BE FOR-GIVEN?!

CALM DOWN!!
SHUT UP! YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING!!

HURRY!
THAT MAN—

LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER!
That's what I said, right?
The mirage that looked so far away, the smell of railway tracks scorched by heat,
and the last chirps of cicadas vanished
Before I noticed, it became autumn
He, who handed over a summer and thoughts that were worth a life time
continued to disappear from my memories.



like the vast, blue sky

The name was perfect for him because he was surprisingly

After that I found out that his name was Taiyou (ocean).